Distr.
GENERAL

IDB.26/14
22 October 2002

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Industrial Development Board

Twenty-sixth session
Vienna, 19-21 November 2002
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

CONSULTATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER STATES

Report by the Director-General

In compliance with decision IDB.25/Dec.2, reports on the status of discussions between non-Member States and the Director-General concerning joining/rejoining UNIDO as at 18 October 2002.

1. At its twenty-fifth session, the Board adopted decision IDB.25/Dec.2, paragraph (d) of which requested the Director-General, in a coordinated effort with Member States, to begin consultations with non-Member States with a view to encouraging them to join/ rejoin the Organization. That decision also requested the Director-General to keep Member States regularly informed and to report to the Board at its twenty-sixth session. The present document describes action taken to comply with that decision and includes reporting on responses to those efforts until 18 October 2002.

2. The solicitation for new members and for former members to rejoin began already in 2000 when communications were sent to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of two former Member States: Australia and Canada. Also in February and April of that year letters were sent to Ministers for Foreign Affairs of seven non-Member countries (Andorra, Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Monaco and San Marino).

3. In April 2001, a communication was sent to the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the only State in the Caribbean that is not a member of UNIDO. That communication was followed up with a further letter from the Director-General in July 2002. Also during the period from July to September 2001, letters of solicitation were sent to a further 12 non-Member States (Brunei Darussalam, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Tuvalu). Follow-up letters were sent during that period to seven of the nine non-Member countries mentioned in paragraph 2 above, informing them of new initiatives by UNIDO that might be of interest to them.

4. As a result of the above initiatives and of contacts established by UNIDO staff members, two visits to UNIDO by high-level officials of their respective Governments were sent by Monaco in 2000 and by Canada in 2002. These developments led to a planning for a promotional mission to Canada and the forthcoming visit of the Director-General to Monaco in December 2002.

5. In summer 2002, the Director-General had the opportunity to meet with Ambassadors of three non-Member States (Nauru, San Marino and Tuvalu) at

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.

V.02-59141 (E)

Distr.: 28 October 2002

United Nations Headquarters when he discussed with them the potential benefits of joining UNIDO. It is to be noted that the Permanent Representative of Nauru had earlier made specific inquiries with respect to membership, to which UNIDO formally replied in July 2001. Those consultations paved the ground for the Director-General's visit to San Marino on 23 August 2002 and for the forthcoming visit to Vienna of a high-level mission from San Marino.

6. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg (August-September 2002), UNIDO presented the partnership initiative "Rural Energy for Productive Use". This partnership initiative includes measures specifically targeted towards small island developing States (SIDS). At the margins of WSSD, contacts with representatives of SIDS and various other actors (NGOs, United Nations Foundation, E-7) laid the groundwork for the development of concrete co-operation proposals that could encourage beneficiary SIDS to join UNIDO.

7. Following the Director-General's communication of 12 September 2002 to the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, expressions of interest in cooperation with UNIDO were received from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, as well as from the Minister for Transport, Communications and Public Works. A mission to the country by the UNIDO Representative in Jakarta will soon take place to discuss areas of particular interest, including the membership issue. A visit by the Director-General is planned for early 2003.

8. Several Permanent Representatives in Vienna have agreed to contact non-Member States with whom they have "traditional" relationships, at which time they will broach the subject of membership in UNIDO.

ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

9. The Board may wish to take note of the information contained in the present document and provide guidance for further action.